

WEEKLY PARENT BULLETIN

KEY SCHOOL DATES, EVENTS, AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - SPRING TERM 2024

Monday 26th February 2024 - Year 11 Mock Examination Week

Monday 26th February 2024 - Year 9 Options Evening 4:15pm - 6:00pm

Monday 4th March 2024 - Year 9 Parents Evening 4:00pm - 6:30pm

Monday 4th March 2024 - Year 7/8 Assessment Week

Wednesday 6th March 2024 - Globe Theatre Trip

Thursday 7th March 2024 - NEC Trip

Friday 22nd March 2024 - End of Spring Term 2

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

February Half-term Supermarket Vouchers

Last half-term we informed you that supermarket food vouchers worth £20 per child are being provided by the DWP's Household Support Fund to help families during February half term. Voucher codes have now been sent by email to all priority 1 parental contacts. Please click the unique link in your email and follow the instructions to redeem your voucher by Tuesday 12th March 2024.

Codes are valid at the following shops: Aldi, ASDA, Farmfoods, Iceland, Morrisons, M&S, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Waitrose. You must redeem your code by 12th March at the latest.

Working Entitlement – Reminder of 15 hours of Funded Childcare

Following the introduction of new early education entitlements from April 2024 (Summer term) there is additional childcare support available for 2 year olds. Parents who meet the working criteria can apply for 15 funded hours a week for 38 weeks of the year (term time). Children will need to have turned 2 years old and parents will need to have their eligible code by 31 March 2024 to access a place from 1 April.

Parents can apply now - applications will need to be made directly to HMRC. Please find more information and help at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

If parents are buying additional childcare on top of their funded entitlement, they may benefit from Tax Free Childcare. Tax-Free Childcare is a government scheme to support working parents with childcare costs. If eligible, parents set up an online childcare account which they can use to pay their childcare provider directly. For every £8 they pay in, the government will pay in an extra £2. Parents can get up to £2,000 per child per year, or £4,000 for disabled children. Parents can apply for Tax Free Childcare and Working entitlement at the same time.

For more information or any queries please contact: earlyeducation@birmingham.gov.uk



Religious Studies Department @HHGS!

Benefits of DEBATING!

Allows quick-thinking.
Inspires articulation.
Allows for broader view of the world.

Develops critical thinking skills.
Supports presentation skills.
Builds research skills.

Shapes emotional control.
Nurtures resolution of conflict.
Builds greater empathy.
Helps find meaning in complex situations.

What can we do at home to support our young people to develop key 21st-century skills such as self-confidence, communication, and empathy. Take some time as a family to take part in the BIG debate statement that will be sent home weekly. Religious Studies debate-led practise puts our young people at the centre of their learning and equips them with the critical-thinking and leadership skills required to tackle big questions in the world.

Every view matters.
Evaluate

What do you believe & why?

What would other religious traditions say?

What would non-religious traditions say?

RS Disposition: Being modest & listening to others.

Spring 2- Week 1

A good debate is more than just an argument: 'It's the ability to see one statement or idea from various perspectives, through critical thinking, critical listening and critical speaking.' Leela Koenig

Apprenticeships Guide 2024

Success at School is a national careers website for pupils aged between 13-19, as well as teachers, careers advisors, and parents/carers. Young people can learn about their future career options through no-nonsense careers advice related to their own experience.

Click [here](#) to access the detailed flipbook Apprenticeship Guide 2024.

@HODGEHILLGIRLS

PARTNERSHIPS

RESPECT

INSPIRATION

DETERMINATION

EXCELLENCE

WWW.HODGEHGS.BHAM.SCH.UK

Job of the Week

This week's job of the week is a Civil Engineer.

Civil engineers create, improve and protect the environment in which we live. They plan, design and oversee construction and maintenance of building structures and infrastructure, such as roads, railways, airports, bridges, harbours, dams, irrigation projects, power plants, and water and sewerage systems.

Find out more [here](#).



Solihull Approach - Free Parent Resources

Hodge Hill Girls' School sits in a free access area for in our place which is an online hub for parent resources in children's and teenager's emotional health and wellbeing. This is one of many courses available to our parents for free.

Access free parent resources [here](#).

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD
SOLIHULL APPROACH

inourplace

NHS

Understanding your relationships

Free online course to follow in your own time to help understand your relationships and your mental health.

- Understanding your emotions in your relationships
- Communicating feelings and expressing yourself
- Reading others behaviours and different communication styles
- Managing conflict, self-regulation and anger

Designed by expert psychologists in partnership with people



www.inourplace.co.uk

Course costs £24. You may be in a funded area thanks to our network of sponsors!



What Next? - Free Post-16 Event

Join 'What Next?' at the NEC, Birmingham, on 1 & 2 March 2024 at the free event to learn more about educational options once pupils leave school or college.

Opening Times:

Friday 1st March 2024: 09:30 - 15:00

Saturday 2nd March 2024: 10:00 - 16:00

Book the free event [here](#).



University of Birmingham - Institute of Physics Evening Lectures

The following Physics lecture is suitable for GCSE-age pupils and above, held in the Poynting Physics Building, University of Birmingham.

Doors open: 19:00

Lectures: 19:30 – 20:30

- **Tuesday 5th March 2024**

100 years of medical x-rays in Birmingham: how radiation has transformed healthcare delivered by Dr Geoff Hayes, Deputy Head of Radiotherapy Physics, University Hospitals Birmingham.

You can find more information (and recordings of previous lectures) [here](#).

For more information and to book your free tickets, click [here](#).



**UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM**





Women's History Month Activity Grid



1. Read about the history of International Women's day	2. Watch a film by a female director	3. Listen to an inspiring podcast FAQs - Rebel Girls	4. Watch one of the Makers documentaries https://www.youtube.com/@makerwomen	5. Read a poem by a female poet	6. Send a female you admire a text or an email of appreciation	7. It is world book day. Begin to read a book by a female author
8. Post on social media raising awareness of IWD Happy International women's day!	9. Take a virtual field trip Online Exhibits National Women's History Museum (womenshistory.org)	10. Mothers Day! Make a card for a motherly figure in your life expressing your appreciation.	11 Investigate the women who have made their 'stamp' on History Women Who Left Their Stamps on History (factmonster.com)	12. Research the longest reigning Queen	13. Research a female scientist https://www.weareteachers.com/women-scientists/	14. Explore this timeline of first ladies and pick your top 3 First Ladies Timeline National Women's History Museum (womenshistory.org)
15. Explore the women of NASA The Women of NASA National Women's History Museum (womenshistory.org)	16. Watch this and complete your own act of kindness The woman who was kind every day for a year - BBC Ideas	17. Listen to some music by a female artist/band	18. Find out and learn the names of Britain's female Prime Ministers and first ever female MP.	19. Choose a woman who you believe deserves a stamp but doesn't have her own yet and design one	20. Take a quiz! https://www.playbuzz.com/TIME/how-well-do-you-know-womens-history	21. Bake something using a recipe from a female chef/baker https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/chefs/mary_berry
22. Attempt to recreate an iconic piece of art made by a woman https://www.britanica.com/topic/Girl-with-a-Pearl-Earring-by-Vermeer	23. Educate yourself on the Me Too Movement	24. Compliment a woman you know that is not connected to how she looks!	25. Colour in a page about women https://www.crayola.com/free-coloring-pages/people/womens-history-month-coloring-pages/	26. Watch a TED Talk by a woman	27. Listen to an audiobook narrated by a woman	28. Engage in a women's history scavenger hunt https://hostime.blob.core.windows.net/images/bx/bic/docs/Womens%20History%20Scavenger%20Hunt1.pdf
29. Go onto BBC news and read an article linked to women	30. Watch a women's football match or another sport where females are competing	31. Watch the new Barbie movie!	Whether you do all 31 activities or just a few we want to thank you for making a positive difference to your own life and those around you.			

HAVE YOUR SAY ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Every Voice Matters



Almost **25%** of women in England and Wales aged between 18-74 experienced abuse before they turned 16 years old. We want your opinions on how we can work together to end this.

Male allyship is a powerful tool in ending violence against women and girls.

We are keen to hear from the men and boys across Birmingham too.

Scan the QR code or use the link to access the survey and share your views.

www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/place/violence-and-abuse-against-women-and-girls



BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER CITY

RECONNECT WITH YOUR TEENAGER

UNDERSTANDING YOUR TEENAGER'S BRAIN

An online course

Day 1

WELCOME AND
INTRODUCTION

10 min

Day 2

TEENAGER'S BRAIN
DEVELOPMENT

8 min

Day 3

TEENAGERS
AND READING
FACES

14 min

Day 4

RISK TAKING

8 min

Day 5

RISK TAKING AND
FRIENDS

14 min

Day 6

SENSITIVE TO
REJECTION

12 min

Day 7

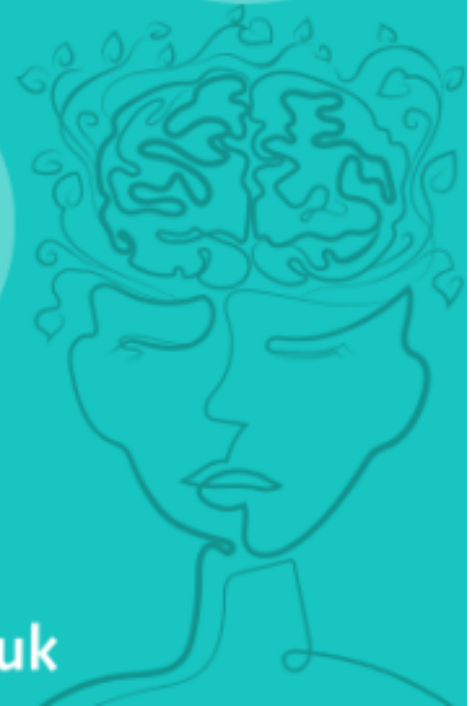
TEENAGERS AND
SLEEP

14 min

Day 8

REVIEW

6 min





Autism Empowerment Webinar

This one-hour lunchtime webinar is a brief exploration of how Autism can present, the history of Autism, diagnosis as well as differences in communication and social interaction. We will also be looking at how the environment can impact on someone with sensory processing challenges.

The main aim of this webinar is to focus on the many strengths autistic individuals have and how we can increase understanding and Neuro-inclusivity through education and raising awareness.

Webinars are held on Zoom on the following dates:

Thursday 29th February 12:30 to 13:30

Friday 29th March 12:30 to 13:30

Friday 26th April 12:30 to 13:30

At the end of the webinar, you will receive a certificate of attendance that will be emailed to your given email address.

The cost of this one-hour webinar is only £5.50!

To book your place on the webinar please either scan the QR code below or go to: www.theautismtrainingnetwork.com/training

"For every person who understands Autism better, another Autistic person will be happier."-
Libby Scott, Autistic Author (at age 11)





Help in Brum

Find Help In Brum Are you concerned about the rise in cost of living?

Find some helpful contact details for advice and support.

Birmingham City Council and partners are working to support and offer guidance to our residents during the cost of living crisis in the UK.

We want to support as many of our residents as possible across key areas which are outlined in this leaflet.

Warm Welcome:

We are working with the local community and a partnership of voluntary and community sector organisations to expand a network of warm spaces. These spaces will be available for people to use and visit during the winter period and beyond.

There are several existing Warm Welcome Spaces within local communities across the city. Warm Welcome Spaces are:

- inclusive and non-judgmental
- heated and free to access

The services at each space will vary but may include:

- information on further support and available guidance
- opportunities to participate in activities and learn new things
- free internet access, computers and charging points
- a friendly environment to connect with others within the community

You can find details of our current Birmingham Warm Welcome Spaces at

www.birmingham.gov.uk/warmwelcome

Keeping checking back online as more spaces will be launched weekly.

Benefits and Money Advice:

During the cost of living crisis, it is also important to ensure you have access to the right benefits and money advice for you. There are several information portals below which can help.

To find out what benefits you are entitled to, it is best to use the Benefits Calculator provided by the Government. Find out more by using this link www.gov.uk/check-benefits-financial-support

Birmingham City Council has also developed several support factsheets which provide useful information on a range of debt related issues. You can view and download information on www.birmingham.gov.uk/debtadvice team

If you are struggling with debt and need advice and support you can also visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/helpinbrum which can help direct you to the right information.

There are also other services who offer free and confidential advice:

- The Project - Benefit, debt and housing advice
0121 453 0606 | www.theprojectbirmingham.org
- Citizens Advice Birmingham - Advice on benefits, debt, housing and more
Freephone 0808 278 7990 (Mon – Fri 9.30 am – 4.30pm) | www.bcabs.org.uk
- Disability Resource Centre - Advice and advocacy services for disabled people
03030 402 040 | www.disability.co.uk

Energy Efficiency:

As energy costs rise we are committed to reducing energy bills and helping everyone to keep warm as we head into the winter months.

There are several schemes already available for residents, with full information and guidance available at

www.birmingham.gov.uk/energyhelp

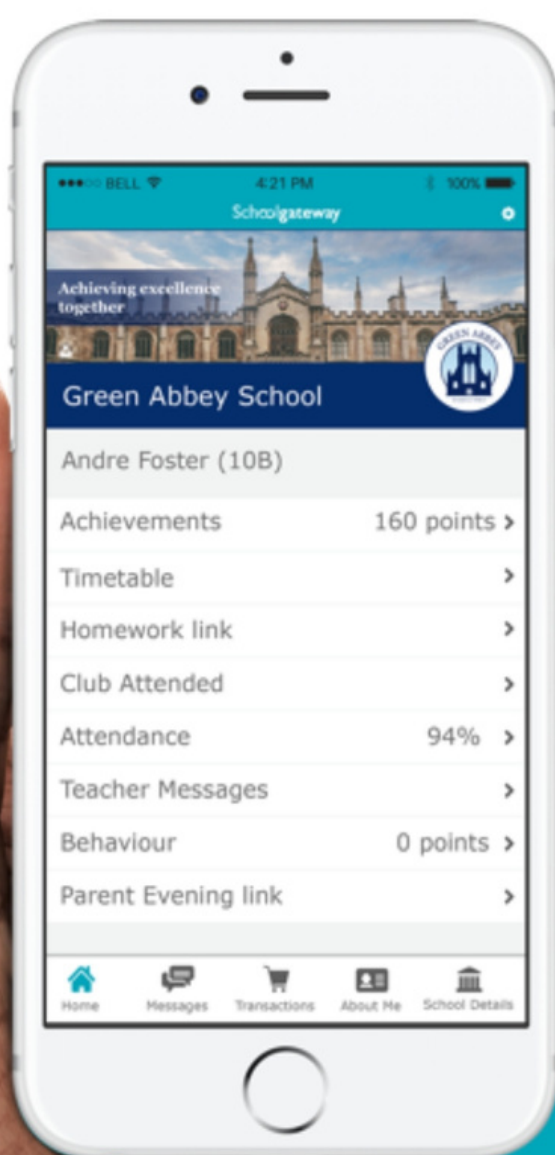
There has been a significant rise in energy scams linked to the cost of living crisis.

There is some helpful support on the Birmingham City Council website to avoid these scams.

www.birmingham.gov.uk/energyscam

Schoolgateway

School Gateway: keeping you up-to-date with your child's school life, wherever you are.



"School Gateway genuinely gets me more engaged and involved at home with my daughters' schooling and rates a 10 out of 10 from me!"

Rohan, Queen Elizabeths, Exeter

Download the
app for free today



Available on the
App Store



Get it on
Google play

School Term Dates 2023/2024

Spring Term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 8th January 2024 to Friday 9th February 2024

Half Term: Monday 12 February 2024 to Friday 16 February 2024

Term 2 Starts: Monday 19th February to Friday 22nd March 2024

Term Ends: Friday 22 March 2024

Summer Term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 8 April 2024 to Friday 24th May 2024

Half Term: Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31 May 2024

Term 2 Starts: Monday 3rd June 2024 to Monday 22nd July 2024

Term Ends: Monday 22 July 2024

Teaching Training Days

Friday 28th June 2024

Monday 22nd July 2024

